

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application:

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~30~~54, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ 54, wherein the alcohol is ethanol, n-propanol, or isopropanol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ 54, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water is from 9:1 to 1:9.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water is 2 parts of alcohol to 3 parts of water.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 53, wherein the aqueous solution further comprises lactic acid.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the lactic acid is present in an amount from 0.5 percent by weight to 5 percent by weight, relative to the weight of the entire solution.

Claims 15-29 (Canceled)

Claims 30-44 (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ 54, wherein the amount of the aqueous-alcoholic mixture is from 30 percent by weight to 60 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 54, wherein the amount of the aqueous-alcoholic mixture is from 35 percent by weight to 55 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 54, wherein the amount of water is from 30 percent by weight to 60 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 54, wherein the amount of water is from 35 percent by weight to 55 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 54, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present in an amount from 17 percent by weight to 25 percent by weight, based on the weight of the entire solution.

Claims 50-51 (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 54, wherein the aqueous solution comprises water in an amount from 30% by weight to 60% by weight, based on the weight on the entire solution.

53. (Currently Amended) A method of hydrating brittle toenails or fingernails comprising applying to brittle toenails or fingernails an aqueous solution comprising:

urea in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 35 percent by weight based on the weight of the entire solution; and

a hydrophilic film-forming agent in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 35 percent by weight based on the weight of the entire solution, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose,

hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof;

with the proviso that the aqueous solution does not comprise any antifungal agent comprising an imidazole ring derivatives.

54. (New) A method of hydrating brittle toenails or fingernails comprising applying to brittle toenails or fingernails a solution consisting of:

urea in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 35 percent by weight based on the weight of the entire solution;

a hydrophilic film-forming agent in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 35 percent by weight based on the weight of the entire solution, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof; and

an aqueous-alcoholic mixture that comprises an alcohol selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, pentanol, hexanol, and mixtures thereof.